

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS STATE 068641

VIENNA FOR UNIDO MISSION

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION ROME INFO USUN NEW YORK FROM SECSTATE
MARCH 20:

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 068641

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, AORG

SUBJECT: PROPOSED USE OF FAO REGULAR BUDGET RESOURCES FOR
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

REF: (A) ROME 3942; (B) USUN 1015

1. DURING HIS FEBRUARY 23 VISIT WASHINGTON DG SAOUMA
OUTLINED IN FAIRLY GENERAL TERMS HIS INTENTION, AS RE-
PORTED BY FODAG, TO SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE JULY FAO
COUNCIL TO SET ASIDE ABOUT \$16.5 MILLION WITHIN THE FAO
PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR 1976-77 FOR TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES. THESE OPERATION ACTIVITIES RE-
SOURCES WOULD BE DERIVED FROM MONIES WHICH THE 1975 CON-
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REFERENCE APPROVED FOR NEW POSTS AND FROM THE FREEZING OF

CURRENTLY UNFILLED POSITIONS.

2. IN DEFENDING HIS NEED FOR THIS TA OPERATIONAL CAPACITY, SAOUMA EXPLAINED THESE RESOURCES COULD BE OF CATALYTIC NATURE, SUPPLEMENTING OTHER FIELD ACTIVITIES. HE SPOKE OF QUICK ACTION, SHORT TERM ACTIVITIES WITH LIMITS ON AMOUNTS ANY ONE COUNTRY WOULD RECEIVE. THE DG DREW HEAVILY ON FACT FAO AT PRESENT HAS ONLY LIMITED MEANS OF EXTENDING MODEST AMOUNTS OF "OXYGEN" WHICH COULD HAVE QUICK IMPACT AND FILL GAPS WITHIN EXISTING COUNTRY PROGRAMS. HE ALSO CITED PRESENT LIQUIDITY PROBLEMS IN UNDP AND SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN FUNDING IN THE FUTURE AS AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR.

3. DG WAS INFORMED FULLY OF U.S. TRADITIONAL OPPOSITION TO INCLUDING TA IN REGULAR BUDGETS BUT WE DID AGREE TO GIVE CAREFUL STUDY TO HIS FORMAL PRESENTATION.

4. OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO US WILL BE CRITERIA WHICH WOULD GOVERN USE OF ANY SUCH SET-ASIDE. FOR INSTANCE, WOULD HE PLACE TIME LIMIT ON ACTIVITIES FUNDED (OUR CURRENT THINKING IS THESE WOULD NEED BE RELATIVELY SHORT TERM AND CAPABLE OF COMPLETION WITHIN BIENNIUM IN WHICH RESOURCES APPROVED); WHAT DOLLAR LIMIT WOULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES AND COUNTRIES (WE WOULD THINK INDIVIDUAL ALLOCATIONS SHOULD GENERALLY NOT EXCEED \$200-\$250 THOUSAND AND NOT BE CONCENTRATED IN ANY PARTICULAR COUNTRY); WOULD PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES (IN GENERAL OUR VIEW PARALLELS SAOUMA'S (REF A) THAT TA CAN NOT BE GIVEN PRIORITY); WHAT TYPES OF ASSISTANCE WOULD BE PROVIDED (WE THINK MAIN EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON PERSONNEL FOR SHORT TERM ASSIGNMENTS); WHAT PROVISION WOULD BE MADE FOR EVALUATION OF THIS ASSISTANCE (OUR THINKING IS THAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM USE OF ANY SUCH RESOURCES WOULD REQUIRE EVALUATION BEFORE END OF BIENNIUM TO ENABLE GOVERNMENTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO CONTINUE THE FUNDING OF TA ACTIVITIES BEYOND THE 1976-77 BIENNIUM) HOW WOULD THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES BE TIED IN WITH ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN RECIPIENT COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE FUNDED BY UNDP (WE THINK UNCLASSIFIED

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IT IMPORTANT THAT THE PROPOSED FAO ASSISTANCE BE COMPLEMENTARY TO THE UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM AND EXTENDED IN GENERAL COOPERATION WITH THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE)?

5. IN GENERAL WE ARE INCLINED TO TAKE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD A LIMITED SET-ASIDE PROGRAM BUT REGARD CAREFULLY DRAWN CRITERIA AS ESSENTIAL.

6. DRAWING ON ABOVE FODAG REQUESTED DISCUSS OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES PROPOSAL WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL. WHILE WE HAVE EMPHASIZED NEED FOR FAIRLY TIGHT CRITERIA ABOVE, WE RECOGNIZE THERE MUST BE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY WITHIN GUIDELINES TO ENABLE DG TO ENGAGE IN RELATIVELY QUICK COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES FOR SHORT TERM ACTIVITIES.

7 FYI. WE REGARD MATTER OF SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISERS/COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES AS RELATED AND IMPORTANT ISSUE UPON WHICH WE WILL COMMUNICATE VIEWS AT LATER DATE. KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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